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BOROUGH OF LOWESTOFT

ANNUAL REPORT
by the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1951

MINISTRY OF

* * *

Arthur C. Gee, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

BOROUGH OF LOWESTOFT

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1951

Chairman :
Miss Alderman Mann

Vice-Chairman :
Mr. Councillor Keene

Mr. Alderman Lang
,, Palmer
Mrs. ,, Wing
Mr. Councillor Colby
,, Croft
,, Durrant
,, Finch
,, Jones

Mr. Councillor Marjoram
Mrs. ,, Nobbs
Mr. ,, Oldman
,, Sanders
,, Thompson
,, Waller
,, Ward
Mrs. ,, Wood-Greaves

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health, Port Medical Officer and School Medical Officer :
Arthur C. Gee, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Deputy School Medical Officer :
Isabella Sim, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Port Health Inspector :
A. Isherwood, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector, Deputy Port Health Inspector :
F. W. Y. Buckley, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :
R. Welch, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
L. V. Bailey, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Combined Health Visitors and School Nurses :
Miss W. Large
Miss M. Shipperbottom
Miss D. Guest
Miss M. Guest
Miss R. Stiles

Senior Clerical Staff :
Mrs. H. James
R. Capon

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Health Department,
123, *High Street.*

YOUR WORSHIP THE MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

As a holiday resort, Lowestoft has much to recommend it. From the health point of view, we enjoy a bracing sunny climate, which is well calculated to act as a natural tonic to any visitor. It is not surprising, therefore, to find that the town appears to be an increasingly popular resort.

The presence of large numbers of visitors amongst our stable community does however present its problems. Epidemic diseases are readily introduced into our community and our normal housing and sanitary facilities are overloaded. The cases of diphtheria mentioned elsewhere in this report appear to have been introduced in this way, and being a fishing port, we stand ever in danger from imported smallpox.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that the warning issued in the report regarding the fall in immunisation and vaccination will be heeded.

On the other hand, we owe a responsibility to our visitors. From the health aspect, the most important field in this direction is in relation to the catering carried out for them. The clean handling of food is of paramount importance in avoiding outbreaks of food poisoning, and too much stress on this aspect of the Department's work cannot be made.

It is gratifying to be able to report that during the year under review, we have been free from trouble of this sort and the catering trade is to be congratulated on this satisfactory state of affairs. Once again the danger is always in our midst. In the course of investigating the two cases of paratyphoid fever shown in the table elsewhere in this report, the source of infection was found to be a man who would have been employed during the season as a waiter.

The attractions which are now a regular feature of the season in Oulton Broad, have too, produced their health problems. In view of the controversies regarding the use of the Broad which are at present developing, I trust that the facts disclosed in relation to its pollution will not be treated in an alarmist manner by those who may feel disposed to comment upon them. The pollution of the Broad is not yet of such a degree as to be a danger to health. The facts recorded, do, however, indicate the trend and we must be on the watch to see that this trend does not continue.

A perusal of this report, will reveal the very wide field your Health Department Officers have to cover. The Department can never complain that its work lacks variety !

May I take the opportunity of expressing my appreciation to you for your co-operation during the year, and at the same time once again thank my Staff for their loyalty and devotion to duty.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR C. GEE,
Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1952.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		Totals	*Male*	*Female*
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	649	342	307
	Illegitimate	44	22	22
		693	364	329

	LOWESTOFT	*Comparative Figures for England and Wales*
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1951	16.2	15.5
STILLBIRTHS		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	17.0	—
Total 12 · *Male* 7 · *Female* 5		
DEATHS per 1,000 estimated average population	13.8	12.5
DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE		
All infants per 1,000 live births	24.5	29.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	21.7	—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	45.4	—
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	1	

Comment on Vital Statistics

As mentioned in last year's report, the fall in the birth rate from its peak in 1947, has been slowing up. The number of live births in the Borough during 1951 was only slightly below that for 1950. The birth rate would therefore appear to be becoming stable. It is still above that for England and Wales, however. It is pleasing to see that the still birth rate is lower than last year's, thus continuing a trend in the right direction.

The death rate this year is up on last year's and is a little above that for the country as a whole. The difference is so small, however, as to be of little significance. The death rate of infants under one year of age is the same as last year and is below the national figure.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The maternity and child welfare, midwifery, Home Help Service, etc., is provided within the Borough by the East Suffolk County Council. Statistics relating to these services are reproduced herewith, through the courtesy of the County Medical Officer.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The Home Help Service has continued to provide domestic help for expectant mothers and aged chronic sick on much the same scale as during the previous year. A total of 160 cases were helped, with 39 Home Helps on the register. Considerable difficulty has been experienced at times in finding enough Home Helps to cover the requests for service. Particularly is this so during the summer months when holiday employment attracts suitable labour elsewhere.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The attendances at the Borough Infant Welfare Centres shew an increase on those for the previous year, as can be seen from the figures below.

Infant Welfare Centre Attendances

	1951			*1950*		
	0-1	1-5	*Total*	0-1	1-5	*Total*
Connaught House	2812	764	3576	2741	581	3322
Southwell Road	1464	310	1774	1363	381	1744
Oulton Broad	636	138	774	659	219	878
Total attendances at all three Centres			6124			5944

As was pointed out in last year's report, much of the work at these centres is educative in character, enabling the young mother to learn how to start her infant off along the right lines and it is satisfying to see that these facilities are being so well patronised.

ANTENATAL CLINICS

Attendances at the Borough Antenatal Clinics numbered 951. The figure for 1950 was 997 ; and that for 1949, 1,334.

It will be seen that the fall in attendances shewn between the 1949 and the 1950 figures has not been repeated this year. It was anticipated that in view of the financial encouragement given by the recent Health Act to the general practitioner to accept maternity work, attendances at the Antenatal Centres would fall rapidly and one quite anticipated that this year's attendance figures would be as much down on the previous year's figures as was 1950 on 1949. That this is not so quite obviously indicates that any curtailment of antenatal services within the Borough cannot be contemplated at present.

The Postnatal and Family Planning Clinics have been developed, 30 attendances being recorded for the former and 57 for the latter.

HEALTH VISITING

There is little to add to the paragraph appearing under this heading in last year's report. The number of visits carried out by the five Health Visitors working within the Borough was 16,537. The previous year's figure was 12,673.

DISTRICT NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

The general impression gained from reviewing the work of the district nurses in the Borough is that, since the National Health Act came in, the number of calls on the general district nurses is steadily increasing. One specific reason for this is the difficulty now experienced in obtaining hospital accommodation for old people.

On the midwifery side, difficulty is still being encountered in getting midwives, the establishment for Lowestoft having been one short during much of the year.

Number of attendances made by district nurses

1949	*1950*	*1951*
23,395	25,909	33,878

Number of deliveries carried out by district midwives

1949	*1950*	*1951*
480	397	461

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The public supply from the Lowestoft Water Company has been uniformly satisfactory during the year, both as regards quality and quantity. The average daily consumption equals 1,480,000 gallons and the consumption per head for domestic and trade purposes is 32 gallons daily.

The supply is derived from open lakes at Lound, whose source is shallow springs plus a certain amount of surface water from a limited catchment area together with river water from the upper reaches of the Bure obtained from the Yarmouth undertaking. Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect the lakes and catchment area from contamination. The water is subject to the natural purifying action of storage, then passes through a system of rapid filters, after which it is subjected to slow sand filtration. The whole supply is finally chloraminated by the automatic plant.

Samples of the supply are submitted each month for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination and the supply is shown to maintain a standard of purity consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

A summary of the reports on four of the samples are as follows :—

REPORT ON FOUR SAMPLES OF WATER.

The chemical results are stated in parts per 100.000.

Chemical.	*Mar.*	*June*	*Sept.*	*Dec.*
Appearance	Bright with very few mineral particles.			
Colour	16	12	Less than 10	16
p.H	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.6
Electric Conductivity	510	470	460	510
Chlorine present as Chloride	49	49	51	54
Hardness : Carbonate	120	110	110	125
Non-Carbonate	100	80	80	90
Total	220	190	190	215
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.4	2.2	0.6	1.8
*Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.059	0.000	0.008	0.010
*Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.073	0.078	0.063	0.069
Metals. Iron	0.15	0.10	0.03	0.08
Other Metals	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Turbidity	Less than 3	Less than 3	Less than 3	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	9	8	8	5
Total Solids	340	315	310	340
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	120	110	110	125
Nitrite Nitrogen	Approx. 0.1	0.01	Less than 0.01	0.01
Oxygen Absorbed	1.3	1.2	0.65	1.4
Residual Chlorine	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent

*To convert to ammonia multiply by 1.21.

Bacteriological.

No. of colonies developing on agar.

1 day at 37°c.	0 per ml.	1 per ml.	0 per ml.	0 per ml.
2 days at 37°c.	3 per ml.	2 per ml.	1 per ml.	2 per ml.
3 days at 20°c.	1 per ml.	2 per ml.	1 per ml.	1 per ml.

B. Coli not found in 100 cc. in any analysis.

Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction. Absent from 100 ml.

Cl. Welchic Reaction. Absent from 100 ml.

A scheme carried out by the Lothingland R.D.C. enabled an extension of the mains supply to be made in Beccles Road within the Borough Boundary. The seventeen houses in this area had drawn their supply from wells and this source had failed completely in one case. The owners of 12 houses made connections to the mains supply as a result of informal action by the Department. In the case of four of the houses, statutory action under the Public Health Act, 1936 as amended by the Water Act, 1945 to require the houses to be connected to the mains supply is pending.

HOUSING

Fairly satisfactory progress has been achieved throughout the year in securing the repair and sanitary condition of houses under the Housing Act, 1936. It does tend to become increasingly necessary for the Corporation to carry out work in default, where the owners fail to comply with the requirements of a statutory notice. This would appear to be relevant to the housing position generally, e.g., the low controlled rents and the high cost of repair work. It seems evident that all the political parties are agreed that the Rent Restriction Acts should be reviewed, particularly does this appear to be necessary when one considers that groups of the community who are living in post-war houses built by the local authority, are in the fortunate position of paying rents which are maintained at a comparatively low level due to subsidies provided by the contributions of the community as a whole. While on the other hand, the life of houses built pre-war is being materially shortened due to landlords being financially unable to maintain their properties in a sanitary condition.

Nine houses have been dealt with in accordance with Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 being individual properties not capable of repair at a reasonable expense. The occupiers were provided with suitable alternative accommodation by the Corporation and undertakings were given by the owners not to use the houses for human habitation. In one case, the undertaking was rescinded by the Council as works had been carried out to the house in order to render it fit for human habitation.

The position regarding slum clearance is more or less at a standstill. There are, however, a considerable number of properties within the Borough, particularly those which were scheduled as being unfit for human habitation in the Redevelopment Area of 1936 of which some are in a derelict condition, which are not capable of being made fit for human habitation at a reasonable expense and will require to be the subject of demolition orders. This position is subject to the availability of alternative accommodation and it would seem desirable that a definite allocation of new houses be made eventually for the rehousing of the occupiers of unfit dwellinghouses.

In the report for 1950 the desirability of constructing blocks of flats by the authority was broached. Subsequently a site was acquired by the Council where it is proposed to erect 2 blocks of flats comprising 12 self-contained flats in each block.

No house-to-house inspections have been made under Section 5 of the Housing Act, 1936, 217 informal notices and 83 statutory notices have been served in respect of housing defects at dwellinghouses, consequent upon complaints being received.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

It is obligatory under the Public Health Act 1936 for all dwelling-houses and other premises to be provided with a proper sanitary dustbin. The Act provides that the local authority may require either the occupier or the owner to provide a dustbin. Where it becomes necessary, questionnaires are supplied to both parties and from the information obtained, the Council decide upon whom notice to provide a new bin should be served. During the year 26 notices were served and where a dustbin had not been provided within the time limit of the notice, the Corporation themselves provided a dustbin and recovered the cost from the person upon whom the notice had been served.

All refuse removed is disposed of by controlled tipping at Burnt Hill Pit, Beccles Road. The pit is practically filled and negotiations are taking place for the acquisition of further tipping space in other disused pits. The approximate weight of refuse removed during the year was 10,000 tons.

The number of men employed on refuse collection is 34 with 7 mechanical refuse vehicles.

Street cleansing is operated by 23 orderlies and a mechanical gulley emptier is used for routine cleansing of street gullies.

Drainage and Sewerage

The sewage disposal system for the area has been maintained satisfactorily during the year. In order to relieve the flooding of the sewer in the trunk road at London Road, Pakefield, 250 yards of sewer were relaid.

A scheme has been drawn up for providing main drainage in the South Lowestoft, Carlton Colville area in conjunction with the Lothingland R.D.C. The estimated cost of the scheme is £55,000. Ministerial approval is awaited.

There are 206 houses within the Borough using pail closets and the night soil is removed by the Corporation.

Two mechanical cesspool emptiers are employed in removing the contents of 380 cesspools in the Borough. The sewage is discharged into a sea-outfall chamber.

An additional cesspool emptier is being purchased.

During the year it was found that works of repair, renewal or improvement were necessitated upon 5 public sewers. The work in each case was carried out by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor in consultation with the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the cost of the work recovered from the owners of the properties concerned.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk and Dairies

Routine inspections have been made of the seventeen registered dairies under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Informal action taken in respect of contraventions of the Regulations was effective in securing compliance.

Registrations and Licenses issued are as follows :—

Number of Registered Dairy Retail Premises	17
Number of Registered Milk Distributors	33
Number of Licensed Dealers in Tuberculin Tested Milk	13
Number of Licensed Dealers in Accredited Milk	0
Number of Licensed Dealers in Sterilised Milk	0
Number of Licensed Dealers in Pasteurised Milk	10
Number of Licensed Pasteurisers	2
Number of Licensed Sterilisers	0

Bacteriological samples have been taken and the results are tabulated as follows :—

Designation	*Satisfactory*	*Unsatisfactory*
Pasteurised	59	8
Tuberculin Tested	6	2
Tuberculin Tested/Pasteurised	4	3
Ordinary	15	9

Advisory action was taken where the samples failed to conform to the necessary standard.

There are two dairies which are equipped with plants for the pasteurisation of milk, one is the " High Temperature Short Time " type while the other is a plant of the " Holder " type. These dairies are subjected to close supervision and samples are taken regularly for bacteriological examination. The results of 50 samples of milk taken showed five samples from the " Holder " plant not to have been pasteurised efficiently and immediate investigations were carried out to discover the cause and advisory action taken. Post-pasteurisation contamination was shown to have occurred in 35 samples taken, by the presence of Coliform Bacilli and extensive research into the possible causes was carried out.

The examination carried out on two samples revealed evidence which suggested that the milk had been contaminated with chemical of a carbolic nature. This was thought to have been due to misuse of bottles by a customer, and again it must be emphasised that milk bottles should be cleansed after use by the housewife, and their prompt return to the dairyman ensured. The result of examinations of those samples of pasteurised milks which failed to satisfy the phosphatase test, for the presence of Tubercular bacilli and Brucella Abortus bacilli, were shown to be negative.

Thirty-two informal samples of milk have been taken and subjected to analysis by the " Gerber " test. Results in all cases showed the fat and " solids-not-fat " content to be above the legal minimum, and further action was not found to be necessary. Examinations were carried out by the staff of the Department.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Slaughterhouses

Eight hundred and two visits were made during the year to the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in the Borough, and 4,626 carcases were inspected.

The Ministry of Food slaughterhouse on the Market Plain is used for the supply of meat to the north part of the town, while the meat for the southern area is slaughtered at Benacre under the supervision of the Lothingland R.D.C. Sanitary Inspector.

The Lowestoft slaughterhouse has been maintained in good general repair during the year, but it is unsuitable and obsolete in many ways.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	*Cows*	*Calves*	*Sheep and Lambs*	*Pigs*	*Total*
Number killed	966	223	1035	1461	941	4626
Number Inspected	966	223	1035	1461	941	4626
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—						
Whole carcases condemned	—	2	3	5	18	28
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	272	65	—	5	53	395
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	28.16%	30.04%	0.29%	0.68%	7.55%	9.14%
Tuberculosis :—						
Whole carcases condemned	2	3	1	—	—	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	130	65	—	—	51	246
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	13.66%	30.49%	0.097%	—	5.42%	5.45%

FOOD TRANSPORT

All imported and home-killed meat is transported to the retail shops by private contractors to the Ministry of Food.

All vehicles used for the transport of meat and food are subjected to inspection in accordance with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, and Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drug, Act, 1938.

FOOD PREMISES

Regular inspections have been carried out of the 49 premises registered in accordance with Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for the manufacture of prepared and potted foods. Informal action was taken in respect of contraventions of Section 13 of the Act, and a satisfactory standard is being achieved.

Inspections have been carried out of most of the retail food shops within the Borough. Where necessary, letters have been sent requesting works of repair or improvements in the general facilities in relation to Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and Shops Act, 1950.

ICE CREAM

There are eleven registered manufacturers and 144 premises registered for the sale of ice cream. Regular inspections have been carried out of these premises in accordance with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

Twenty-three samples have been taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical examination. No samples were shown to contain less than the standard 5% fat content.

The reports received on thirty-four samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination showed the samples to be provisionally graded as follows :—

Grade One	19
Grade Two	3
Grade Three	5
Grade Four	7

Advisory action was taken in respect of the lower grade samples to acquire a higher standard of cleanliness in production methods, utensils and equipment.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

122 formal samples of food and drugs have been taken during the year and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis as follows :—

Beef Sausages 7, Vinegar 7, Fruit Sauce 5, Pepper Flavoured Compound 4, Non-brewed Condiment 4, Sponge Mixture 3, Cake Flour Mixture 3, Rice 3, Mincemeat 3, Cut Mixed Peel 3, Milk 2, Dessicated Coconut 2, Salmon and Shrimp Paste 2, Glace Cherries 2, Saccharin Tablets 2, Bicarbonate of Soda 2, Horseradish Cream 2, Cooking Fat 2, Coffee and Chicory Essence 2, Butter 2, Ground Cinnamon 2, Scotch Whisky 2, Orange Marmalade 1, Honey 1, Pastry Mixture 1, Pork Sausages 1, Cherryade 1, Blackcurrants 1, Dutch White Fondants, Processed Cheese 1, Milk Whipping Compound 1, Brawn 1, Tomato Ketchup 1, Tapioca 1, Sweetened Fat 1, Granulated Gelatine 1, Jelly Crystals 1, Cherries in Syrup 1, Dessicated Soup 1, Curry Powder 1, Tomato Sauce 1, Essence of Rennet 1, Salad Cream 1, Cream 1, Cheesecake Mixture 1, Apricots in Syrup 1, Ox Tongue Paste 1, Aspirin Tablets 1, Macaroni 1, Raspberry Jam 1, Golden Raising Flour 1, Shredded Suet 1, Sage and Onion Stuffing 1, Ham and Beef Paste 1, Syrup of Figs 1, Ground Coffee 1, Blanc-Mange Powder 1, Vanilla Flavouring 1, Horseradish Relish 1, Tomato Chutney 1, Meat Soup 1, Baking Powder 1, White Pepper 1, Chocolate Spread 1, Worcestershire Sauce 1, Yeast 1, Veal and Ham Paste 1, Dried Mixed Fruit with Sugar 1, Synthetic Cream Powder 1, Juice of Real Lemons 1, Ground Mixed Spice 1, Chinese Preserved Stem Ginger 1, Balsam of Aniseed 1, Christmas Pudding 1, Dressed Crab 1, Arrowroot 1, Tarragona Wine 1, and Ginger Wine 1.

Articles of food found unfit for human consumption and accordingly condemned were as follows :—

Ham 1176 lbs., Bacon 107 lbs., Sausages 36 lbs., Meat 523 tins, Fruit 2,205 tins, Milk 1,801 tins, Peas 159 tins, Beans 100 tins, Cheese 185 lbs., Wet Fish 896 lbs., Kippers 3,780 lbs., Spaghetti 134 tins, Fruit Cake 152 lbs., Vegetables 396 tins, Jam 171 tins, Fish 491 tins, Pudding Mixture 2,212 packets, Cod Roes 159 lbs., Tomato Puree 672 lbs., Soup 122 tins, Lemonade Crystals 140 packets, Chocolate Spread 180 packets, Horseradish Cream 426 jars, Salad Cream 264 jars, Confectionery 82 lbs., Sultanas 61 lbs., Fowl 330 lbs., miscellaneous articles 517 lbs.

One sample of Beef Sausage was found to be non-genuine. Legal proceedings were taken against the vendor and a fine of 40/- was imposed.

RODENT CONTROL

Three Rodent Operatives are employed by the Health Department to carry out the work of pest destruction which is obligatory under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. The Act requires that the Corporation shall keep the Borough area free from rats and mice, and where the occupiers of land are aware of an infestation on the land, they are required to notifiy the local authority. During the year, notifications were received in respect of 453 properties of the presence of rats or mice, while a total of 2,439 premises were found to be infested as a result of surveys of the area, and disinfestation treatment was carried out by the operatives.

All the work carried out at business premises is charged on a cost of works basis and 54 business premises are serviced under contract.

Two disinfestation treatments of the sewers have been carried out during the year and this is shown to be a very necessary branch of rodent control.

The functions of local authorities under the Act has been further extended by the Application to Shipping Order which came into operation on the 1st October, 1951.

The Order makes the Act applicable to all shipping and it is of particular importance to Lowestoft Port Health Authority. The fishing vessels sailing from the Port will require to be furnished with a Rodent Control Certificate showing that the vessel is free from rats and mice. The certificate is valid for a period of 4 months. An additional Rodent Operative has been appointed for the purpose of carrying out the duties involved.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following table shews the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year 1951 :—

Diseases	*Total cases notified (after correction)*	*Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital*	*Total Deaths (within Borough)*
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	14	2	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	2	—
Typhoid	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	2	2	—
Dysentery	2	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	11	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	65	4	—
Polioencaphilitis	—	—	—
Measles	430	2	—

The first point worthy of comment in the table above is that a case of diphtheria is recorded. This is the first case in the Borough since 1947. Since the end of 1951 and the time of writing this report, there have been further cases. These must be taken as reminders that the disease has not disappeared for good, but is being held at bay by modern public health measures. Chief of these is, of course, immunisation and it is significant that the percentage of the infant and child populations immunised has been falling during recent years.

At the end of 1951, only 49.6% of children under 5 years of age were immunised and 61.0% of children under 15 years. These figures compare unfavourably with those for other places in the county and if diphtheria is not to re-occur in Lowestoft, a better response to appeals to parents to have their infants immunised must be made. In this connection, a publicity campaign was run in the Borough toward the end of the year. This is referred to in greater detail in the appropriate section of this report.

1951 was a " peak year " for measles, 430 cases having been notified, compared with 183 the year before. A characteristic of epidemics of measles is that they usually occur every other year and this is so within the Borough, a high incidence of the disease having occurred in 1947, 1949 and again in the year under review.

No cases of poliomyelitis were recorded during the year.

The rather higher figure than usual shewn for puerperal pyrexia is due to an alteration in defining this condition, the present criteria for defining the condition being more severe than hithertofore.

It may be opportune to mention another infectious disease which, as it is not generally notifiable, does not appear in the table shewn, but for which statistics are available in this office, viz., Infective Hepatitis, popularly known as "Jaundice." There was quite a high incidence of this disease in the Borough during 1951 and, as the following figures will shew, it appears to be on the increase.

1947	*1948*	*1949*	*1950*	*1951*
11	22	47	13	127

The cases are fairly evenly distributed throughout the year, no particular month shewing a regularly higher incidence than another.

Infective hepatitis is a virus disease, the exact mode of spread of which is not known for certain and until our knowledge of it is greater, no measures of prevention and control, which can be regarded as entirely effective, are possible.

FOOD POISONING

Four cases of food poisoning were notified during the year, two being due to paratyphoid organisms and two being dysentery.

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS IN THE BOROUGH

	MALES		FEMALES		
	Pulm.	*Non-Pulm.*	*Pulm.*	*Non-Pulm.*	*Total*
(1) Number of cases on Register at commencement of year	107	31	93	22	253
(2) Number of cases notified under Regulations of 1930 for first time	28	4	19	2	53
(3) Number of cases RESTORED to the Register during the year	—	—	—	—	—
(4) Number of cases added to the Register during the year OTHERWISE THAN BY NOTIFICATION	4	—	1	—	5
(5) Number of cases removed from the Register during the year	7	1	10	2	20
(6) Number of cases remaining on the Register at end of year	132	34	103	22	291

IMMUNISATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS.

The protection of persons against tuberculosis was started in this area in 1951 by vaccination with B.C.G.—10 hospital nurses 2 adults and 58 contacts having been immunised in this way.

EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD X-RAY SURVEY LOWESTOFT

I am indebted to Dr. T. J. O'Riordan for the following report on the work of the Mass Radiography Unit which visited the Borough during the year :—

" The percentage of newly discovered Pulmonary T.B. in Lowestoft, as in East Anglia, is small compared with the percentage for all mass radiography units in Great Britain, viz., 0.36% active and about 2.0% inactive."

Following table shows numbers X-rayed in age groups and cases of newly-discovered T.B. :—

	Under 14		14		15/24		25/34		35/44		45/59		60/*and over*		*Totals*		*Totals Both Sexes*
	M.	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	
Total No. Examined	817	838	277	279	1081	1501	1457	980	1160	777	1072	658	232	146	6096	5179	11,275
Active Cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	2	1	2	1	1	—	9	3	12 (0.106%)
Inactive Cases	1	2	—	—	3	9	8	10	14	13	17	8	5	2	48	44	92 (0.81%)

Above table does not include X-ray of 22 (11 Male and 11 Female) cases of previously diagnosed Pulmonary T.B.

OTHER DISEASES

Some of the other diseases diagnosed :—

Chronic Bronchitis	9	Bronchiectasis	12
Atypical Pneumonia	1	Pulmonary Fibroses	6
Basal Fibrosis	60	Pleural Thickening	6
Intrathoracic Tumours	5 (Bronchial Carcinoma 3, Adenoma 1, Congential Cystic Disease 1)		
Cardiavascular lesions Congential	3	Sarcoid	3
Acquired	19	Dextrocardia	1

LOWESTOFT AND DISTRICT T.B. CARE COMMITTEE

1951 Report

The Lowestoft and District T.B. Care Committee met monthly under the Chairmanship of Dr. Margaret Johns, the members of the Committee during the year being :—

Mrs. M. Chadd (Oulton Broad)
Lady Gooch (Wrentham)
Miss D. Leech (Lowestoft)
Mrs. M. Ling (Burgh Castle)
Mrs. P. Mobbs (Carlton)
Miss E. O'Leary (Hulver)
Mrs. D. Ollington (Lowestoft)
Miss V. Pryce (Lowestoft)
Captain E. Turner (Lowestoft)
Miss V. Upcher (Fritton)
Mrs. E. Wigg (Barnby)
Rev. F. Williams (Lowestoft)
Dr. I. M. Young (Area Chest Physician)

As can be seen from the Statement of Income and Expenditure, help to T.B. patients and their dependents during the year has been on a generous scale and from the various letters of thanks which have been received, it is apparent that this help has been much appreciated. Particularly is this so in respect of travelling expenses to relatives, the sum of £18 7s. 3d. shewn against this item representing many journeys made by relatives to sanatoria to visit T.B. relations. The policy of the Committee in this direction has been to accept financial responsibility for one visit per month (four weeks) per applicant.

Extra nourishment, too, represents a good share of the Committee's expenditure and is made up mainly of groceries, etc.

Under Miss Hayes and subsequently Miss O'Leary, the occupational therapy side of the Committee's work has gone ahead well. The number of patients undertaking occupational therapy during the year was 27. The Committee accepted responsibility for providing the materials, those patients who wished to do so subsequently purchasing the items they made at cost price. Some of the items made by patients were exhibited at the Committee's dance, where they attracted very favourable comment. Since then, orders have been received from members of the public for such items as lampshades, jewellery, etc., and it is hoped that quite a substantial addition to the Committee's funds may result from this source.

The funds of the Committee have continued at a satisfactory level. Over £17 profit was made on the dance this year and the Committee were fortunate in being granted a share of the Sunday Cinema Fund.

In all, some nineteen applicants for help were dealt with, £80 1s. 8d. being expended in assisting them.

A statment of Income and Expenditure for the period 1st April, 1951, to 31st March, 1952 is shewn overleaf.

LOWESTOFT AND DISTRICT T.B. CARE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1ST APRIL, 1951 TO 31ST MARCH, 1952.

Expenditure

	£	s.	d.
To Milk	—	—	—
„ Other Forms of Extra Nourishment	31	7	11
„ Clothing	1	5	0
„ Bedding, etc.	1	12	8
„ Travelling Expenses of Relatives	18	7	3
„ Cost Price of Stock of Patent Foods in Hand on 31st March, 1952	—	—	—
„ Fuel	7	1	0
„ Tools and Handicraft Materials	19	5	0
„ Other expenditure—enter in detail			
Repair of Spectacles	1	2	10
Cheque Books		8	0
Petty Cash	4	0	0
„ Balance at Bank—after all outstanding accounts to the 31st March, 1952, have been paid	170	0	7
	£254	10	3

Income

	£	s.	d.
By Balance brought forward 1st April, 1951	203	17	7
„ Balance of stock of Patent Food brought forward at cost price	—	—	—
„ Grants during the above period			
Receipts from Sunday Cinema Fund			
Quarter ended 30.9.51	16	13	1
Quarter ended 31.12.51	16	1	8
„ Profit resulting from Dance	17	17	11
	£254	10	3

HEALTH EDUCATION

This activity of the Health Department is now becoming recognised as one of first importance. During the year under review, the Medical Officer has co-operated with numerous voluntary organisations in giving lectures on a variety of subjects dealing with the prevention of sickness.

During the latter part of the year, the Health Committee participated in the Ministry's Diphtheria Immunisation Publicity Scheme, a series of advertisements being placed in the local press, who co-operated well in the campaign by publishing material supplied to them by the Department.

The question of clean food handling has been much to the fore and whilst after considerable discussion, the Health Committee decided not to proceed with any schemes as elaborate as that initiated at Guildford, i.e., the formation of Clean Food Guilds, the Sanitary Inspectors have, in the course of their duties, done much publicity in this direction. In this connection it is gratifying to be able to report that apart from one or two isolated cases, there were no outbreaks of food poisoning within the Borough during the year, which speaks well for the standard of hygiene in the town's catering establishments.

PROPORTIONMENT of COST of the HEALTH SERVICES

From the figures supplied by the Borough Treasurer, the net cost of the various Public Health Services in Lowestoft for the year ended 31st March, 1952, was as follows :—

Service	*Net Cost*	*Equivalent Rate in £*	
	£	*s.*	*d.*
Administration, Salaries, etc.	5,545		5.18352
Notification of Births and Deaths	4		0.00373
Water Supplies	22		0.02056
Port Health Authority Precept	128		0.11965
Food and Drugs	206		0.19257
Disinfection and Disinfestation (including Disinfector Expenses)	48		0.04487
Prevention of Damage by Pests	541		0.50573
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	11,388		10.64562
Refuse Collection	15,581	1	2.56528
Refuse Disposal and Salvage Recovery (after crediting £565 for land transferred to Allotments Service)	792		0.74037
Public Conveniences	1,910		1.78548
Mortuary	46		0.04300
Contagious Diseases of Animals	50		0.04674
Meteorological Station	56		0.05234
Fountains and Troughs	22		0.02056
	£36,339	2	9.97002

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (including foreshore) (Acres)	5,495
Population at 1931 Census	41,768
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1951	42,890
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books at December, 1951	12,853
Rateable value—31st December, 1951	£272,717
Sum represented by a penny rate 1951/52	£1,069 14s. 9d

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND CLIMATE

Lowestoft stands on the most easterly point in the British Isles and shares with the coastal region of East Anglia a very small rainfall and a record of sunshine much above the average for the whole country. The Borough is divided into two portions by a harbour created from Lake Lothing, from which the sea frontage of 4½ miles rises at each end with natural cliffs, rather higher at Gunton in the north than at Pakefield in the south. The town is particularly fortunate to possess a large number of natural parks and open spaces available to the public, which must contribute greatly to the health and physical fitness of the inhabitants by providing facilities for outdoor activity and recreation.

The climate is invigorating by reason of the large proportion of sunshine and fresh breezes, and the low rainfall combined with an almost complete absence of fog and atmospheric pollution permits full participation in the health-giving properties of sun and air.

The following meteorological summary is afforded by courtesy of the Meteorological Observer. From the observations of the prevailing winds it will be noted that any reputation for undue prevalence of easterly winds is hardly warranted, since the proportion of such is fairly low except in the early months of the year.

Sunshine

Sun hours exceeded the yearly normal by 28 hours.

Sunniest day, 6th June, 15 hours bright sunshine.

Of the many stations in the North-East, East and Midland Counties, Lowestoft had the highest total sun hours for the month of May.

Rain.

Greatest falls in day, 1.47 inches on 12th July, and 0.93 inches on 6th August.

Rain exceeded the yearly normal by 4.04 inches.

Barometer Readings

Highest: 30.456 on 27th November and 21st December.
Lowest: 28.714 on 5th February and 28.920 on 14th March.

Sunless days—69. *Rain days*—(i.e., 0.2 mm. or over)—183.

BOROUGH OF LOWESTOFT

REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVER FOR THE YEAR 1951.

Month	*Sun* — 1951	*Normal*	*Rain* — 1951	*Normal*	*Average Daily Temperature* 1951	*Normal*	*Highest Max.*	1951 — *Lowestoft Min.*	*Lowestoft Max.*	*Highest Min.*
	Hours		*Inches*							
January	54.0	62	2.04	1.67	39.7	39.1	52	22	39	45
February	73.5	79	2.85	1.40	39.1	39.7	48	29	37	40
March	123.0	142	2.63	1.61	40.5	41.9	57	27	39	47
April	197.3	177	3.81	1.48	44.1	45.7	62	32	44	45
May	198.4	219	1.90	1.61	50.7	50.9	71	40	47	52
June	258.0	209	1.99	1.81	56.1	56.5	72	40	53	59
July	240.9	220	2.72	2.27	61.6	60.5	78	44	61	61
August	175.8	207	2.28	2.20	60.1	61.3	73	45	61	61
September	143.3	170	1.87	1.96	58.7	57.9	75	40	58	63
October	153.2	118	0.55	2.79	52.3	51.9	64	34	46	59
November	57.4	69	3.38	2.35	47.6	44.8	58	30	41	52
December	72.2	47	1.50	2.33	42.0	40.7	53	28	38	47
	1747.0	1719.0	27.52	23.48						

Highest Maximum	78 degrees	17th July.	Lowest Maximum	37	,,	14th February.
Lowest Minimum	22 ,,	30th January.	Highest Minimum	63	,,	12th September,

	Winds (to eight points of the Compass)									
	N.	*NE.*	*E.*	*SE.*	*S.*	*SW.*	*W.*	*NW.*	*Calm*	
January		4	3	4	4	5	5	6		31
February		2	1	1	6	11	6		1	28
March	1	2	5	5	4	4	5	5		31
April	2	4	2	5	1	5	9	2		30
May	7	11	3	3	2	2		2	1	31
June	2	6	1	5	4	2		10		30
July	1	2	2	4	4	3	9	6		31
August		1			2	22	3	3		31
September	1	3	3	3	4	8	4	4		30
October		5	7	8	2	5	2	2		31
November	1		1	4	7	7	4	5	1	30
December					7	14	6	4		31
	15	40	28	42	47	86	53	51	3	365

OULTON BROAD

The rapid development of Oulton Broad into one of the major entertainment and recreational facilities of the Borough is bringing in its trail numerous health problems.

There has been a phenomenal increase in the number of craft using the yacht station.

The number of " yacht-nights " paid for per season since the war is as follows :—

1946-47	28,000
1947-48	39,000
1948-49	48,000
1949-50	53,000
1950-51	60,000
1951-52	64,000

The yacht station was designed to accommodate 30 craft, but at peak periods up to 60 craft have been moored, and from ten to fifteen craft have to be turned away each night. These moor elsewhere on the Broad.

A feature of the sanitary arrangements of Broads craft, is that closets and sinks are discharged overboard. It is not surprising, therefore, that complaints have been reaching this Department about the fouling of the Broad by human excreta—particularly in the region of the Yacht Station.

Following these complaints, a series of examinations of the Broad water have been made.

The first, taken on the 16th September, 1950, was reported on by the Analyst as follows :—

TABLE A

BROAD WATER

Distinctive No. or Label	*Total Solids in suspension*	*Ammonia*		*Chlorine in Chlorides*	*Nitrogen as Nitrates*	*Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate (4 hours)*	*Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand*	*Nitrites*	*Physical Characters*
		Free and Saline	*Albumin-iod*						
1. Yacht Station	12.0	0.01	0.36	1665	Nil	7.4	6.8	Nil	Impurity fig. 5.5 pH 8.5 Amorphous dep. in both
2. Centre of Broad	11.0	0.07	0.32	1615	Nil	4.3	5.1	Nil	Impurity fig. 3.8 pH 8.5

Remarks :—Both these samples show the presence of organic impurity, the 1st being definitely worse than the 2nd, as shown by the markedly high figures for oxygen absorbed in 4 hours and the B.O.D. On this latter basis the water from the centre of the Broad would fall into the Royal Commission's category for rivers of " doubtful purity " while the sample from the Yacht Station is just outside this category and would be " bad or polluted." The higher content of free ammonia in the 2nd sample probably means that the organic impurities have begun to be broken up by the natural processes of self-purification. On these analyses we are of opinion that the water at the Yacht Station is markedly more contaminated than is the centre of the Broad.

A further series of analyses made during 1950 and 1951 gave the following figures :—

TABLE B

	AMMONIA		0.2 *Absorbed from Permanganate* (4 *hours*)	*B.O.D.*	*p.H*
	Free	*Albuminoid*			
OULTON BROAD					
Centre	0.048	0.024	0.40	0.90	7.6
Yacht Station	0.038	0.024	0.40	0.61	7.6
6.11.50					
OULTON BROAD					
Centre	0.28	0.40	3.5	3.4	8.0
Yacht Station	0.28	0.40	3.7	4.5	8.0
27.1.51					
OULTON BROAD					
Centre	0.26	0.46	3.12	11.9	8.0
Yacht Station	0.28	0.48	3.12	13.1	8.1
10.8.51					

It will be noted that the figures for the B.O.D. for 10th August, 1951, show a considerable degree of pollution.

Comparison with two other " Broad waters " of good quality will help to show the degree of pollution of the Broad.

TABLE C

	AMMONIA		0.2 *Absorbed from Permanganate* (4 *hours*)	*B.O.D.*	*p.H*
	Free	*Albuminoid*			
HOVETON GREAT BROAD	0.056	0.26	3.15	1.0	7.6
RIVER BURE Near entrance to Wroxham Broad	0.068	0.084	1.40	1.3	7.8

In an endeavour to counteract the pollution, pamphlets were printed and issued to the Yacht Station Harbour Master for distribution to the crews of yachts visiting the Broad, asking them to use the shore latrines. Some improvement in these facilities was made at the same time and four male and four female W.C's. are now available. During the peak periods these are not adequate and if the co-operation of visitors is to be obtained, their number must be increased.

The second problem which must be referred to is the lack of adequate sanitary provisions in the Nicholas Everitt Park during fetes and similar occasions. According to press reports up to 15,000 persons use this park on such occasions, and the present provision of 3 male and 3 female latrines, can only be regarded as totally inadequate.

The recent improvements to the swimming bath are welcome and in spite of the heavy use made of this bath, samples taken during the season have always shown sterilisation of the water to be satisfactory.

LOWESTOFT
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT
For the Year
1951

Staff :

Port Medical Officer :

Arthur C. Gee, m.r.c.s., l.r.c.p., d.p.h.

* * *

Port Health Inspectors :

A. Isherwood, c.r.s.i., m.s.a.i., Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector
F. W. Y. Buckley, m.r.s.i., m.s.i.a., Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector

* * *

Offices :

Public Health Department, 123, High Street, Lowestoft
(Telephone : Lowestoft 782)

I.—AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR 1951.

				Number Inspected					
		Number	*Tonnage*	*By the M.O.H.*	*By the Sanitary Inspector*	*No. to be reported defective*	*No. of vessels on which defects were remedied*	*No. of vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Tpt. Surveyor*	*No. of vessels reported as having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board*
FOREIGN.	Steamers and	4	1602	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Motor Vessels	35	6788	4	28	—	—	—	—
	*Sailing	19	149	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fishing	Trawlers	81	2431	—	11	—	—	—	—
	Drifters	45	2475	—	2	—	—	—	—
TOTAL FOREIGN		184	13445	4	41	—	—	—	—
COASTWISE.	Steamers and	28	7220	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Motor Vessels	349	35777	—	62	—	—	—	—
	*Sailing	83	863	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fishing	Trawlers	2161	108052	12	51	11	11	11	—
	Drifters	3016	135720	8	33	19	19	—	—
TOTAL COASTWISE		5637	287632	20	146	30	30	—	—
TOTAL FOREIGN AND COASTWISE		5637	301077	13	171	22	22	—	—

*Mostly sailing yachts with small auxiliary engines (no actual sailing vessels have entered the port this year). Motor yachts (i.e. cabin cruisers) are included in the heading for motor vessels.

CHARACTER OF THE PORT

The Port area of Lowestoft is divided into three separate entities consisting of the Hamilton, Waveney and Trawl Markets used by Trawlers and Drifters for the landing of White fish and Herring (during the season), the North and South Quays situated on the banks of Lake Lothing west of the swing bridge and the yacht basin. The North and South Quays are used by the merchant ships carrying timber, salt, stone, etc. The West end of the North Quay is also used by Trawlers and Drifters for coaling and general repair work including dry docking and slipping.

(a) *Passenger traffic during the year.*

There is no passenger traffic at this port, which is not approved under the Aliens Order, 1920.

(b) *Cargo traffic.*

Principal Imports — Timber and Salt.

Principal Exports — During the period 1st September to 31st December, 1950, the principal exports from this Port were as follows :—

269 crans of fresh herring to Germany.
232 crans of fresh herring to Belgium.
4,025 crans of marinated herring.
23,388 crans of pickled herring.
18,001 crans of redded herring.
7,027,500 tins.

(c) *Foreign Ports from which vessels arrive.*

Scandinavian, Baltic and North Sea Ports.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the Port consists of fresh and salt mains and the fishing port comprising Hamilton, Waveney and Trawl Docks is served by 5,160 ft. of fresh water main and 4,290 ft. of salt water mains. The discrepancy is occasioned by the absence of salt water supply to East, West and South wharves of the Trawl Market. These wharves being used only for docking purposes. There is no water supply to the South Quay but fresh water points are provided on the North Quay.

CLEANSING.

Cleansing of the Fish Market is carried out daily by the staff of British Railways, and with the re-surfacing of the main wharves and the repair and/or modernisation of the market buildings has eased tremendously the task of keeping the Market clean and fresh. During the herring season, the cleansing operation is carried out almost continuously throughout the day. White fish landings are transferred from Waveney Dock to Trawl Basin, and whilst there is some congestion at peak landings, the work of cleansing is carried out at the close of trade. The work of cleansing the Waveney Dock and the South arm of Hamilton Dock is going on continuously throughout the day, and it is estimated that approximately 20 tons of salt water per hour are used.

Salt water, as has already been stated, is used for the general cleansing of the wharves, it is also used for the spraying, under pressure, of the metal kits used in the unloading of fish from trawlers and for washing all apparatus on the market and occasionally—the fish itself. It is this latter practice which gives rise to some concern regarding the clean handling of fish when it is appreciated that the supply of salt water derives from the dock itself.

Fresh water is used for supplying the ships and for washing out fish rooms aboard the ships. In this connection, it is felt that the use of fresh water for cleansing aboard ship is to be commended, but the pumping of bilges should be carried out when the ship is at sea. It has been noted on occasions, which are, happily, rare, that this harbour regulation is not observed as scrupulously as necessary.

THE FLEET.

The fleet sailing from the port varies greatly during the various seasons and it is difficult to give fleet numbers, but it is estimated that from February to September there is a core of approximately 60 trawlers operating from the port whilst an additional 55 trawler/drifters are operating from the northern ports. With the advent of the herring season lasting from mid-September to mid-December, the trawler/drifters return for the herring fishing and are augmented in numbers by part of the Scotch fleet which has followed the herring down the coast from the Scottish and Northern ports.

The modernisation of the fleet is progressing slowly, the older type of steam trawler being replaced with the modern diesel-driven drifter/trawler, several of which have been built in local yards. There are, however, approximately 20 trawlers varying from 30 to 50 years of age still operating from the port, and whilst they are maintained in good condition, the general design of crew's quarters leaves much to be desired.

PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933 and 1945

Revised Forms of Declarations of Health are being used in accordance with the Port Health Amendment Regulations, 1945.

Cases of Infectious Sickness Landed from Vessels

There were no cases of infectious disease landed from vessels during the year.

Arrangements have been made with St. Helen's Hospital, Ipswich for the admission of possible cases of smallpox. Transport would be arranged by that hospital.

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, became applicable to shipping by The Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951. Insofar as the fishing vessels sailing from the port are concerned, it will be necessary for them to be certified as being free from infestation by rats and mice. These certificates will be valid for a period of 4 months. An additional Rodent Operative has been appointed to carry out the inspections and disinfestation treatments.

Two hundred and twenty-three vessels inspected revealed eleven infestations by rats. Disinfestation was carried out successfully by the Rodent Operatives by means of poisoning, trapping and gassing.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have approved a new rodenticide for the purposes of rodent control known as " Warfarin." This poison must be eaten by rodents for several days when the reaction causes death. The danger to other animals and humans is negligible. It is hoped that this rodenticide will be very effective in the disinfestation of fishing vessels and experiments are in progress with the collaboration of the Ministry's Technical Adviser.

Rats Destroyed During the Year

On Vessels :

	Total	*Jan.*	*Feb.*	*Mar.*	*Apl.*	*May*	*Jun.*	*Jul.*	*Aug.*	*Sep.*	*Oct.*	*Nov.*	*Dec.*
Black	(62)	—	6	—	4	18	11	—	4	9	—	3	7
Brown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Species not recorded	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Examined	(3)	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infected with plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

No Plague " Infected " or " Suspected " Vessels or Vessels from Plague Infected Ports arrived in the Port during the year.

Lowestoft is not a Port approved by the Minister of Health for the issue of Deratization Certificates.

HYGIENE OF CREW'S SPACES

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel	*No. inspected during year*	*Defects of original construction*	*Structural defects through wear and tear*	*Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health*
British	117	—	—	12
Other Nations	—	—	—	—

FOOD INSPECTION

1. Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Foods) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925-1940, and the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926.

According to the figures given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the weight and values of fish landed at Lowestoft during the year 1951 were :—

	Quantity	*Value*
Trawl Fish	306,859 cwts.	£1,349,800.
Herrings	134,675 crans	£528,035.

During the year, 896 lbs. of fish were condemned and, owing to market fluctuation, the following quantities were disposed of in the manner indicated.

White Fish		*Herrings*	
3,556 cwts.	Manure.	11,409 crans	Fish reduction plants for meal and oil.
287 cwts.	Bait.		

2. *Shell Fish.*

There are no shell fish beds in this area.

3. Number of Samples of Imported Food examined by :—

(a) Bacteriologist	Nil.
(b) Analyst	Nil.

Despatch of Fish.

This phase of fish distribution is dealt with in three ways. Rail transport, road transport by individual firms operating from Lowestoft only and road transport linking other major fishing ports with a central distributing station.

The first and second methods have been in operation for a considerable time, but the third method is a comparatively new venture and whilst Lowestoft is but one of the ports concerned, it is felt that with the cutting down of changes of transport and the consequent saving in the time factor, that the third method of transport is bound to result in the delivery of fresh fish to places where such commodity, although not unknown, is extremely rare.

It is felt that the port, which, prior to the war had established for itself the name for landings of good quality fish in prime condition, a name which it is slowly but surely re-establishing, must have regard for the principal factors which contribute to the delivery of prime fish in good condition to the consumer. These factors have been reiterated so frequently as to become obvious but they are still *cleanliness* and *speed* and in turn proper storage at sea and clean and quick handling in unloading, selling and despatching to the inland merchants.

Having regard for recent experiments in the keeping qualities of fish carried out at research stations, there are points arising which are not contributory to the above-mentioned factors. They are, the keeping of trawlers at sea for periods which are not conducive to keeping the fish in prime condition ; the use of hooks and shovels in packing the fish with subsequent tearing and bruising ; the practice of icing back fish which is unsold for another day's market ; and the difficulty in getting quick despatch of the fish from wholesaler to inland retailer. Whilst these conditions are by no means common, they do exist, and it is indicative of the health and vision of the trade to observe that the conditions mentioned are gradually disappearing and are being overcome by more careful attention to detail and, in some cases, the complete change of method in handling and despatch.